

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all keeping well and enjoying the easing of some of the national restrictions, including seeing up to 6 friends and family indoors. As a school we are looking forward to the 21st June, when we can review our risk assessment and invite parents/carers into school for events, as long as the government's roadmap is on schedule. We have had a positive case this week amongst a member of support staff and this has resulted in a year 2 class having to self isolate. We have provisionally planned a cultural evening /summer fair and the year 6 children are busy rehearsing A Midsummer Night's Dream, which they are hoping to perform for parents/carers in the new theatre in July.

As many of you are aware, the school has focussed on raising funds for India where Covid is currently overwhelming the country. The PTA are discussing further fundraising ideas this week, including for the Palestinian community and people of Gaza who have been devastated by the recent bombing. Ms Islam and Ms Rahman, our Global Rights lead, will be discussing how to incorporate an educational focus so that pupils understand more about the situation in Gaza. Thank you to families for attending the recent Sex Education consultation meetings, there will be a further one on 8th June from 6-7pm to accommodate requests from working parents for an evening meeting. I would like to thank Ms Islam who has led these meetings and I know that families have praised her sensitivity and listening skills. Please rest assured that the school will work with parents/carers and take into consideration concerns relating to content, approaches and resources.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who have regularly contributed to the mosaic project - the work that you are putting into this initiative is very much appreciated by the school and the final mural should be ready by the end of term for us all to enjoy in the KS1 playground. A special thanks to these parents: Humaira Patel, Hafsa Begum, Iram Jehan, Dipika Patel, Hawa Bhaiyat and Saleha Ahmed' for dedicating their time to help out in this project. We are having a big focus on adapting our curriculum so that it continues to be World class and also helps pupils to address gaps in their education caused by the national lockdowns. Mrs Silverwood will be sharing the changes and our vision as part of the next PTA meeting on the 25th June at 9.30am and will also be writing to parents. We will follow this with a series of curriculum workshops which will start later this term and go into the autumn term and I am hoping these will be on site.

I wish all of our school community a restful and happy half term break and wish to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment. Elmhurst continues to go from strength to strength and this quote from Debate Mate and Deloitte (a company supporting our year 5 & 6 pupils in speech making) expresses this beautifully:

"Joe had a debrief with our main contact from Deloitte after the session and she was in tears at how great the session was and how impressed she was by the students! Elmhurst is such a warm and welcoming school - I absolutely love visiting and there is always such a positive energy around with the staff and students."

- Ms Samra

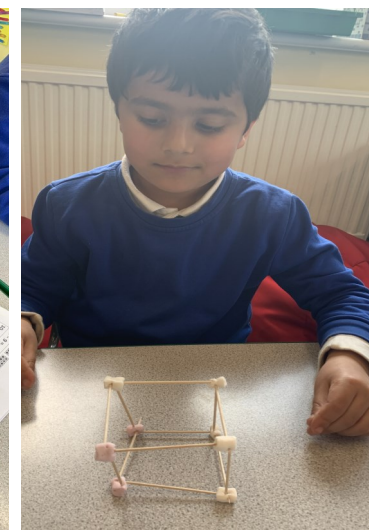
Elmhurst Debaters...

Elmhurst debaters have had a busy fortnight, with pupils competing in 6 competitive debates - and winning every single one! The school had two teams competing in both the first round of the East London Debating League and the Debate Mate Cup, speaking on motions ranging from the best way to combat malaria to whether after-school sports clubs should be compulsory. The teams, made up of 20 children across years five and six, did brilliantly and the school is very proud. In particular, **Tasnuba from 6S won the award for most improved speaker in the country.** This is not the end of the exciting times for the debating clubs, with more competitions on the horizon and with Elmhurst having been chosen by Debate Mate to work with consulting company Deloitte on a special debating project over the next half term.

Year 1 Numbersense Work

In year 1 we have been focusing on becoming fluent with our number facts. We have looked at making one more and one less, the patterns made by odd and even numbers and number bonds of 10 and their fact families. We have been using a range of strategies including our ten frames, number lines and part whole models to develop a really secure understanding of numbers and make our year 1 children into confident mathematicians.

In addition to our number work, year 1 have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We even made our own impressive 3D shapes using cocktail sticks and marshmallows.



Learning about the Partition

Year Six pupils have been delving into one of the most important but controversial moments of the twentieth century with their new history unit, looking at the Partition of India in 1947.

The idea for the unit was first suggested by Ms Samra, due to how the families of many of our students have been impacted by this momentous event. The lessons cover the Mughal Empire, the rise and fall of the East India Company, the role of Gandhi in the independence movement, the impact of Partition and then the enduring aftermath of the events. So far, the first three lessons have been taught and have been very successful. Daiwik from 6T said: 'Most of the people in the school are from that part of the world, so it is great to learn about our family stories and our history.' Qasim from 6S added: 'At home, you focus on family stories but now in school we hear the big stories.' We look forward to learning more about the history.

Oracy

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Oracy, a group of politicians investigating the importance and impact of oracy in schools, has just published its much anticipated final report. As part of the process of it being written, Elmhurst gave both written and oral evidence to the committee and, as a result, was chosen as one of the seven schools highlighted in the document as having good oracy teaching. We were particularly commended for our work to support children who do not have English as their first language. Mr Creighton should be commended on his work to raise the profile of the school in this area.

Mental Health Support in Elmhurst

We now have a mental health team in school which is managed by Jane Nash (AHT) and includes the following staff who provide support for children and families:

- Ibtissem Amieur - school counsellor who works with children on Mondays and Tuesdays
- Elinor Lobleby - trainee mental health practitioner who runs meetings and individual sessions for parents around positive behaviour management. She will also be starting work with a year 6 class on a project called 'Brain Buddies' which helps children to regulate their emotional wellbeing.

Helena Kaliniecka - Child psychologist from the child and adolescent mental health service, who provides termly support and advice for children and families in school.

Please see Miss Nash for advice about supporting your child's behaviour and well being and we will refer you to the right professional or service.

Here is a link to mental health resources and helplines available for our parents in Newham: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1167/mental-health-and-wellbeing-covid-19-contact-info>

Upton Park Road Safety Campaign

As you may already know, we have been petitioning for change on Upton Park Rd to make it safer. It is a very dangerous road with drivers often speeding and driving carelessly. As part of our campaign, the School Council recently wrote a letter to The Newham Recorder to tell them about the dangers of the road. The letter was quickly picked up by the reporter and he came to interview the children the very next day. The children spoke incredibly well and passionately shared their concerns for themselves, their families and the local community.

The article was great and you can find it on their website or if you google 'Newham Recorder Elmhurst'. As part of the article, the news reporter phoned the Council to ask why no action has been taken, despite Ms Samra and Mr Ahmed asking the Council to help in the past. This push led to a meeting happening with the Highways Department of Newham Council later that week. I spoke with them and they have agreed to looking into getting a zebra crossing and a crossing patrol to guard it during the busy hours of the day. They will also complete a survey of the road to assess the issues and have another meeting to discuss a way forward. This is great progress in our mission to make Upton Park Rd safer for the school and the local community.

Well done to the School Council for their great work on this issue. Watch this space to see what happens next!



Elmhurst Food Bank

A big thank you to those of you who donated food for the food bank here at Elmhurst. There were many thankful families and we are grateful of the support. We will be starting the food bank again after Eid and asking families to donate the same items; oil, sugar, rice, lentils, flour (preferably wheat/chapati flour) and salt. Please continue to donate these food items by dropping them to your child's class. I would also like to thank the parent volunteers and Saleha for organising them as well as the organisation 'Hope for Humanity' for providing the food, including some nice treats for the children. More details will be sent to parents about the next food bank.

If you have any other questions please contact Miss Kate Watson as she will be the Pupil and Parent Voice Coordinator from May 7th
(kate.watson@elmhurst.newham.sch.uk)

HOPE 4 HUMANITY
HOPE 2 HUMANITY

Hope 4 Humanity is trading name of HOPE 4 HUMANITY (SIC No. 1948282)

Serving The Community
"Every Little Helps"

Supported by
HITECH SIGN & PRINT LTD
FareShare
ASHES X
HELP FOR LIVES

FOOD BANK

Initiative helping families & individuals, who are in need of support during pandemic

THURSDAY
25th March 2021
at 3:30 pm

LOCATION
Elmhurst Primary School
Upton Park Road
London

Fighting against the poverty

For Enquiries, Donations & Volunteering

Mah Rukh 07557 378 555
Junaid Ali 07469 717 712
Zubair Bawa 07947 334 023

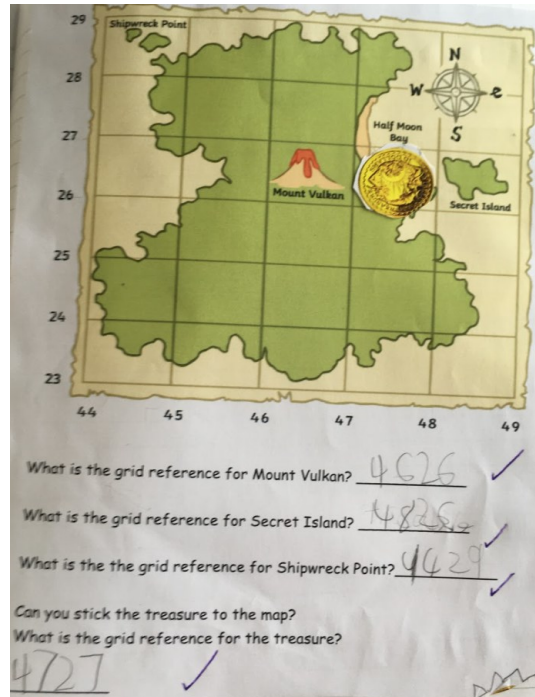
Hope4HumanitySupport
hopeforhumanity@gmail.com

SEN Work this Term

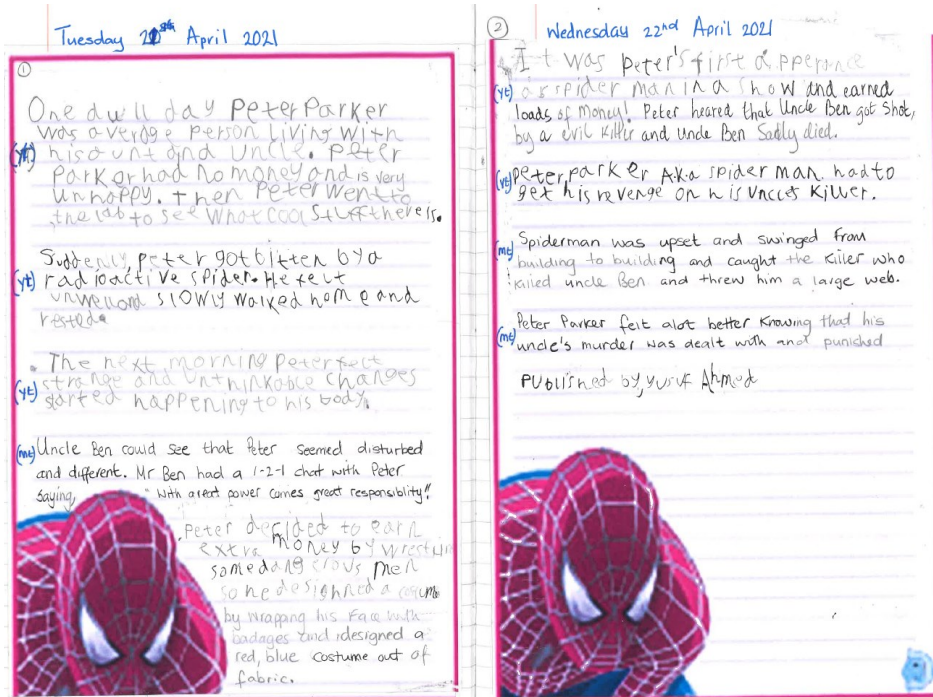
Children with SEN across Key Stage Two have had a very creative and thoughtful term. Children have been working on an array of topics, including mathematics work on part whole relationships, exploring habitats and understanding the water cycle during science lessons and using grid references to locate places in geography.

Children continue to enjoy story time in the sensory room, developing their gross motor and communication skills on the web and building strong relationships in the soft play room. I am really proud of the children with SEN in Key Stage Two and am looking forward to more outdoor learning with them as the weather gets warmer.

- Rosie Gillett SEN teacher



Grid references by Uzair (5A)



Storyboard by Yusuf (6V)



Habitats by Ayush (4A)

The Water Cycle by Disan (4W)

Our children with SEND in KS1 have been making great progress in and out of the classroom. They have attended groups such as: 'Attention Autism' (or 'bucket group') to develop attention and listening skills. Music therapy with our music therapist - Laurence Carey to develop communication and interaction. Sessions in the sensory room to develop sensory awareness. Activities in the soft play room to help with emotional regulation. SEN movement sessions with Mr Ben our PE teacher. They have their own work stations in the classroom and are included in whole class lessons as well as quieter sessions with their TAs.



Exciting Curriculum Changes!

As we near the end of this academic year and look forward to the next, we know that you as parents have many questions about the school's curriculum and changes that might be happening to address the effects of the pandemic. Therefore, our final newsletter next term will be a bumper curriculum edition.

We are very proud of having designed a curriculum to inspire our pupils and also of the adaptations and changes that have been made to support them over the two academic years where their learning has been disrupted. We feel confident that we are systematically addressing gaps in learning that will give your children the best start to the next academic year.

In the next newsletter, we will have detailed sections on the changes in place for the Maths and English curriculum as well as sharing with you some of the ongoing work we have been doing in sequencing our foundation subject curriculum, including the planning of brand new units. We will feature some of those new units, such as Year 6's Partition of India unit that have been newly planned and delivered and we will include pupils' opinions on these.

Pupils will be sitting end of year assessments in the forthcoming weeks, so this will be an opportunity to reflect and compare pupils' progress with our last set of formal assessments two years ago. As the curriculum lead for the school, I would also like to invite you to email me with any questions about the curriculum and I will select some to answer in the newsletter nwilliams@elmhurst.newham.sch.uk. We are also in the process of setting up some curriculum parent workshops to support you in understanding these changes. I look forward to sharing these exciting changes with you all shortly.

- Nia Silverwood
Deputy Head Teacher

Exploring the Ornamental Gardens

Miss Robinson had the pleasure of teaching Year 1 how to use maps and understanding how maps represent a location. The Year 1 classes ventured to the beautiful Ornamental Rose Gardens in West Ham park and created sensory maps where they used objects from the floor and place them to the corresponding place on their maps.

They then had so much fun finding hidden shapes around the garden and adding their locations to their maps. In future lessons, the year 1 classes will go on to use maps to find where x marks the spot as well as learn compass directions.



Our Saviour

Mournful mornings filled an empty void
Hungry for companionship to dispel haunting nightmares
Melancholy has spread like a virus in this world
Aching for a change, our hearts blackened and rusty
Dejected - we are hanging by a single thread
For too long, hope has been lost
The moon too shy to shine, the sun to bleak to glisten
Our emotions are like seasons, each comes and goes fleetingly
Without a single soul noticing
The sands of time fell like tears
The years have passed with pain and suffering
Beyond the blue horizon lurked a spark
A wisp spreading like rumours from ear to ear
Anchored to lost memories of the past being resuscitated
Igniting faces with elation
Emerging from a flicker of light
Reborn
Nature has vaccinated people's hearts and has healed their wounds
Hope has been injected into the soul of god's creation
The old atmosphere has been burnt to ashes,
And a new one has risen like a phoenix,
Our long lost friend has awoken from its deep slumber
Hope has returned Home.

Poem By 5A

We wanted to create a piece that reflected all of our experiences and feelings into one piece. It was in effect our way of binding our class individuals together to become one body.

Through the composition of this poem we learnt to listen to each other's ideas and develop them, improve them - thus learning from/ with each other, finding ways to encourage and bring out the best in each other! We hope you enjoy this poem!

Elmhurst Plants a Tribute Tree

Three year 6 children attended a tree planting ceremony to commemorate all those who have passed away in the local area during the pandemic.

The poignant event was organised by The Green Street Community Neighbourhood as part of 'Dying Matters Awareness Week'. Minhal read a beautiful poem that she composed herself and Daiwik and Zernab were honoured to take part in the ribbon cutting and unveiling of the plaque. All three pupils also helped by adding the final touches of mulch to end the planting of the tree ceremony.

Photos include the pupils with Cllr Rahman of Green Street East Ward who also spoke at the ceremony.



Year 6 Update

Year 6 continue to impress us with their hard-working attitude in class. We have been enjoying reading 'The Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen in Literacy and, inspired by the events in this story, we will be writing formal letters and fact files. In Maths, Year 6 have been developing their problem solving skills through algebra. Meanwhile, our afternoons have been filled with competitive games of basketball and rounders, science experiments involving light and shadow and some interesting discussions in PHSE around how to look after our mental health.

Rehearsals are now underway for our end of year production - Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' We just can't wait to perform this at the end of the year... hopefully in our new hall! A big well done to all the Y6 pupils who have already learnt their lines and thank you to Mr Creighton for all the time you are putting in to preparing our actors!

Elmhurst Mosaic Project!



I have been working with staff and parents from the PTA to start work on the very large mosaic which will be erected in the KS1 playground. The mosaic was designed by artist Ursula Kelly who came into school last year. Lockdown has interfered with her plans and I've been asked to help out. The artwork for the mosaic was made up from the pupils own drawings and now those pupils are also helping to assemble the tens of thousands of individual glass tesserae that will make up the mosaic. We have dozens of great colours that are glued to glass fibre sheets which will then be fixed to the wall before being grouted, making a beautiful and long lasting legacy artwork for the school. We're just getting started, with many days work ahead of us, but its been great fun!

The staff and parents have been very helpful and supportive, and I'm enjoying working at Elmhurst immensely. Mosaic is slow work, but as everyone gets more practice, we'll get it done as soon as we can!

- Dave Taylor
Sculptor and Mosaicist.



Ramadan and Eid Ul- Fitr

This half term lots of our local community have been observing the month of Ramadan. Year 2 have been learning all about why different religions fast, including the Muslim community.

Corina from 2OT wanted to share her knowledge of fasting:

" My friends' families have been fasting for Ramadan. They can't eat in the day time and when the sun goes down that's when they can eat. They pray and give money to people who need some food and drinks. Then after Ramadan they celebrate Eid."

The children in Year 5 have also been busy learning about why Eid Ul-Fitr is important to Muslims. They have been looking closely at the story of the Night of Power. They wanted to celebrate and share what they have learnt about this special time for Muslims by putting on a virtual assembly. It was wonderful to see them exploring this through drama, storytelling and singing. Some of the Year 5s also shared the feasts that are eaten on Eid through a series of home videos. We hope you enjoy watching this wonderful assembly as much as the school did.

Please use this link to watch the assembly. We hope you enjoy it!!

<https://youtu.be/IZxLJLUTpn8>

Eid Mubarak!

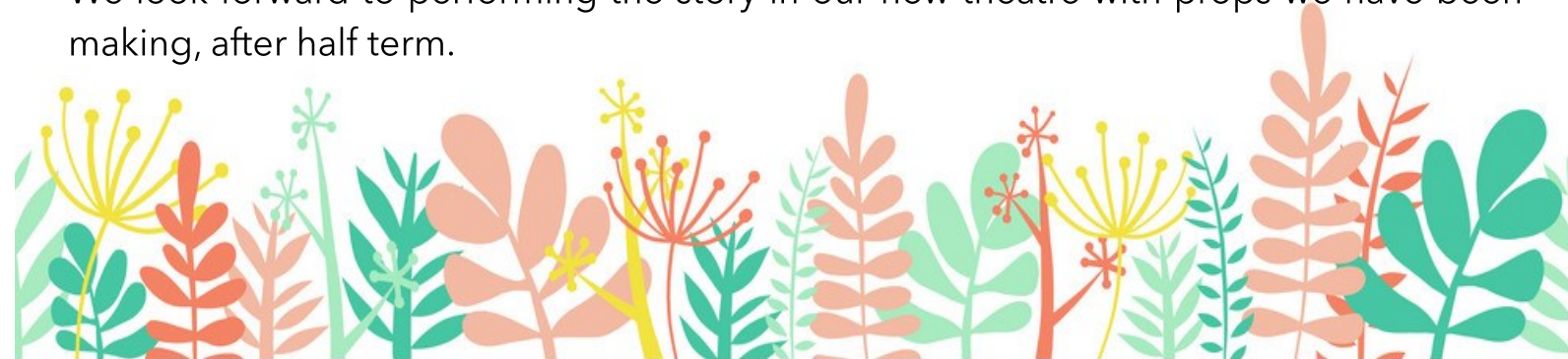
Miss Charalambous
RE Coordinator



Year 5 'Iliad Project'

The children in Year 5 have been taking part in an exciting and ambitious project which introduces them to the classics. They have been participating in the 'Iliad Project' with Jonny Walker, and will be exploring the ancient history of the Trojan War. They will be exploring the text, written around 2,800 years ago, whilst also bringing it to life with whole-class drama and philosophical enquiry.

So far, the pupils in Yr. 5 have been very engaged and loved Mr Walkers storytelling. We look forward to performing the story in our new theatre with props we have been making, after half term.



Easter Booster!!

During the Easter holidays, some Elmhurst pupils were lucky enough to be invited to attend Easter booster. This was thanks to some additional government funding made available to support pupils with catching up after the school closures during the last year.

After English and Maths lessons in the morning, there were plenty of fun-filled afternoon activities including cooking with Ms Memon, gardening with Ms Ahmed and lots of PE with Mr Ben. We even had a smoothie bike in the second week with children making and drinking delicious mango and berry smoothies!



UK/Ghana School's Partnership

Elmhurst Primary School and six other schools in the UK are involved in an exciting project with primary schools in Accra, Ghana, with the help of the British Council and their Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme.

Please visit this website to learn more about Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning - <https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/>

Year 4 and year 5 have had the amazing opportunity to take part in the project called 'The Story of Water'. The art, literacy and geography work produced by the children, as part of the project, will centre around the UN's sustainable development goals 6 and 14.

Please visit this website to learn more about the sustainable development goals - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

The Year 5 children are currently involved in designing and creating a sea life mural in the Key stage one playground with artists Dave Taylor and Ursula Kelly. Year 4 are involved in creating graffiti protest placards and giant plastic sea life creatures with a consultant Andrew Mutter, which they will parade during a street protest this summer term.

All the work from Year 4 and 5, will form part of an online exhibition viewable by everyone and an exhibition at Cody Dock environmental site, which will be open to the public to visit.

Please visit the website to learn more about Cody Dock - <https://codydock.org.uk/>

Towards the end of the project in September 2021, there will be a celebration event showcasing all the children's hard work and the partnership we have formed with our link school Umuraniya Islamic Basic School in Accra, Ghana.

Children from both countries are working together on the project and learning more about each other. This has involved zoom video calls to the school, where our children see and talk to the school children in Ghana.

The UK/Ghana schools' partnership padlet will be available to all parents to view online on our school website soon, so you will be able to see the progress of the project.

Umuraniya Islamic Basic School in Accra, Ghana.



Elmhurst's Battle of the Books!

On Friday 30th April, Elmhurst's brand new BATTLE OF THE BOOKS was launched! Over the rest of the summer term, eight BRAND new books will be introduced to each year group. Pupils will take copies of the books home to read and can complete reviews about them on their year group padlet.

Links to each year group padlet can be found in the 'useful links' section of the website: <https://elmhurstprimary.co.uk/curriculum/useful-links/>.

At the end of the term, pupils will vote on their favourite books they've read. We've already spotted some fantastic reviews on the year group padlets - take a look at some of our children's reviews on what they have enjoyed reading. We hope you find a book to start reading too.

Charles Darwin's on the origin of species. -Noor 6S

This book is incredibly interesting. Charles Darwin had written a book about evolution. This book demonstrates that every animal and human is different. Over time people, just like animals, can evolve. What is evolution? Evolution is where someone or something changes over time and sooner or later they'll develop abilities that the past couldn't. This book has many pictures that make the book stand out. If you like picture books mixed in with information about life as we know it I'd recommend this book to you! I'd give this book 9/10 stars.



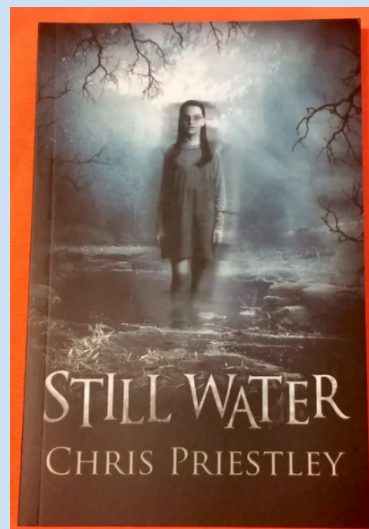
Still Water - Meerub 6V

Mystery , horror what else can you ask for?

This book is amazing , the front cover gives you chills and describes the story perfectly

This story follows a young girl Rosie who is taken out of London as there is a war going on her new carer seems kind but her daughter Mary is not as kind as her mother . One day Rosie discovers the pond and its hidden truth is all revealed , will there be a happy ending ??

This book is a 5/5 I would definitely recommend to read it at night so it is even more scary!!



The Blue Giant - Awais Mehmood 5A

I deeply recommend this book to people who like to change the world .

This book is very encouraging for young people and grown ups to learn about climate change and what it is doing and what they can do to change it .

I rate this book 10/10



Midnight feasts- Khadijah Ahmed 5R

I LOVE this book! Its really funny. If you're stressed or angry you should read this!

Also here are some poems you should read in the book!

Crisps and custard

Never trust a lemon

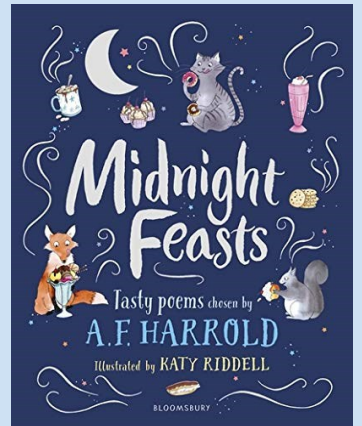
lemon

Fasting

Water

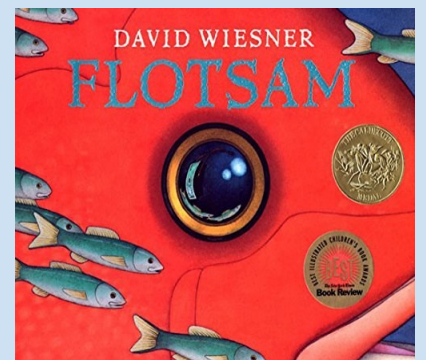
There's SO many more!

If I had to rate it, I would give it a 10/10



Flotsam - Neev 4A

Absolutely brilliant book I highly recommend this book to everyone. Because if you wanted to you could literally spend HOURS on just looking at the illustrations. It is a wordless book but that doesn't mean you can understand what the book is trying to say. Anyway I do find this book weird, funny and interesting.

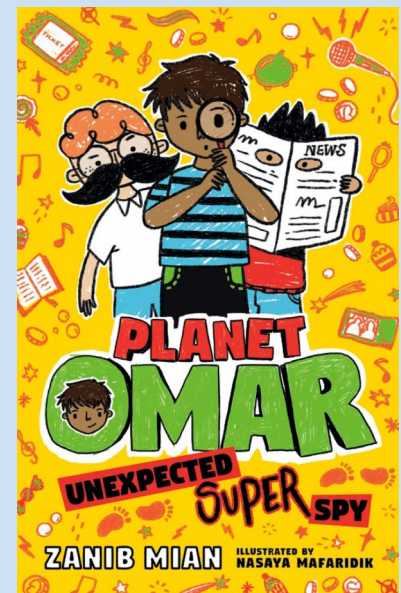


Planet Omar Unexpected Super Spy - Zayna 5A

I personally liked reading the book Planet Omar because it talked a lot about saving a persons religious place of worship. In this book it focused on a Muslims place of worship which is a mosque. For Muslims this is an important place because that is where we feel most close to God and for me personally it is a place that makes me feel calm and relaxed.

I also recommend Planet Omar because it teaches you that no matter what happens there's always a solution to it.

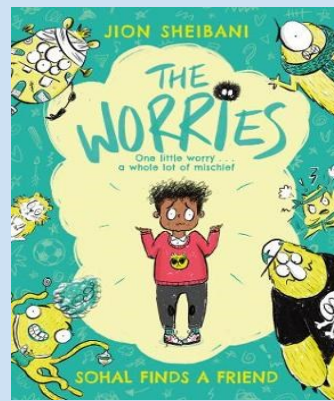
I give it a five star rating. I hope you guys enjoy reading it as much as I did.



The Worries - Netra 4JW

The worries is a lovely book with clear vivid pictures. I think the author of this book could improve on telling us how the characters say the speech. I recommend this book for people who worry a lot so they can find a way to solve their problem.

I would rate this book: 9/10



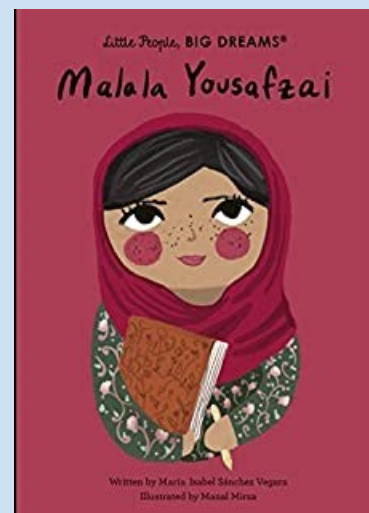
Grandad's Secret Giant - Matteo 3T

I would rate this book 10/10 because I loved the giant who helped the town every time. He even helped the little boy in the story when he got caught in something... Every single time when someone sees the giant they run away and scream. They are judging him and scared of him because of his size, because he's a giant. They shouldn't do that because they are all humans. This is a story about friendship and not judging people by the way they look. This book is an interesting read!



Malala Yousafzai - Aamina 3K

This book is written by Maria Isabel. I like this book because of all of its amazing illustrations and her timeline. The most interesting part was when she stood up for her class and saw that guns and bombs were useless against a girl with pens and books. She is my role model but because of her morals and her confidence and bravery .



Counting on Katherine - Maryam K 4W

I really like this book. I will give this book 100/100 because Katherine never gave up plus , we should always persevere in our every day life. Moreover her parents were always by her side Also the book teaches you to be equal no matter what colour you are and who you are, and if you keep on trying you might get what you want just like Katherine.

